**DAFFODIL DAWDLE 2020**

I arrived at the Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre very early on the 29th March. I usually travel the day before the event and stay in B&B, but everywhere was full so I had no choice but to travel to Stradbroke on the Sunday morning. There was just a few cars in the car park at 5.30am, those being unloaded by the Norfolk & Suffolk volunteers for the day. The car park slowly filled up with cars and by 7.45am the car park was full and all the walkers and runners were in the hall checking in and getting there tally cards and kit ready for the off at 8 am.

At 8am we were all outside ready for the off and after a short talk by Norfolk & Suffolk about where to be careful and all that, and cp times will be adhered to, we were off. CP 1 was 5.5 miles away and we all started off at a good pace. We left the hall and crossed the road and a walker stumbled on the path opposite and hit the deck, he got up and carried on so no major problems there, but I think a couple of his mates got a laugh out of it. On we went, already the faster walkers were stretching out at the front. Off the pavement and onto a track. It got a bit muddy at this point but with boots and gaiters on my feet I soon made short work of the mud. “Cross stile and turn left and follow for 2 fields with hedge on left then through a gap and turn left now with hedge on right” the route description said. This I did and I got into quite a decent pace. Cross fields, along farm tracks, up a hill, round a football pitch we went till 5.5 miles later we walked through the gates of a village hall and CP1. Tea and coffee, sarnies and cake was on the menu and after making a pig of myself FOR A CHANGE I headed out the door and headed for CP2.

“Out the gate turn left and follow the road to a 30 mph road sign and then take the footpath opposite, partly hidden footpath sign” the route description said. I found the footpath sign opposite the road sign and crossed the road, climbed the stile and crossed the field on a CB of 180.” Cross the earth bridge in the corner of the field and turn half left and head for the lone tree in the distance” the description said. This I did and half way across the field the first of the runners came past. With a “hello and have a goodun” they disappeared in the distance. We followed a track through a lovely woodland then followed a small river, then turned left through a kissing gate and followed a footpath across a small field and after 6mls we walked into a small Norfolk village and CP2. Not only were the usual sarnies and fruit and tea and coffee up for grabs, there was even hot roast beef baps for the taking, yum, yum nice one Norfolk & Suffolk. I spent 30mins at CP2 and had guzzled two mugs of tea before I headed for the door and went on my way to CP3. I was looking forward to CP3 because they always do a very nice salad bar.

After an hour walking towards CP3 the same bunch of runners passed me again, Taken aback with surprise I gasped “Haven’t I seen you guys before today”, “Yep” they said, We went the wrong way and lost about an hour”. Ooppps. They disappeared into the distance again. Anyway, through a farm yard we went and followed a track out onto a busy road, turned left then turn right through a gate and follow the footpath into a wood. As I got to the edge of the wood the walkers in front of me shouted back saying “watch the wire, there’s a badger set just off the path”. I waved back and shouted thanks, but it was a waste of time because I got my feet tangled in the wire and went down and headed the ground with quite some force. . . . ……………………...

Dazed I got up off the hard floor and looking around me, I thought to myself WOW that was a good one. . . . . Half asleep I got back into my bed, half an hour later the bloody alarm went off and I got up to get ready for work.

Photographs of the 2020 Daffodil Dawdle will not be at [www.steveceegalleries.smugmug.com](http://www.steveceegalleries.smugmug.com)

 Stevecee xx